

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING PENDING
GENERAL ORDERS DISCLOSURE FORM

1. Pending General Order that the communication concerned:

SWRCB/OCC File No. A-2239(a)-(c): State Water Board review of petitions challenging Central Valley Water Board Order R5-2012-0116, Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed that are Members of the Third-Party Group

2. Name, title and contact information of person completing this form:

Danny Merkley
Director, Water Resources
Governmental Affairs Division
California Farm Bureau Federation
1127 11th Street, Suite 626
Sacramento, CA 95814

3. Date and location of meeting, phone call, or other communication:

February 17, 2016, 3:30 pm
California Farm Bureau Federation

4. Type of communication (written, oral or both):

Oral communication during small stakeholder meeting.

5. Names of all participants in the communication, including all board members who participated:

From State Water Resources Control Board: Dorene D'Adamo, Board Member; Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director, Division of Financial Assistance; Philip Wyels, Assistant Chief Counsel; Emel Wadhvani, Senior Staff Counsel

From California Farm Bureau Federation: Paul Wenger, President; Danny Merkley, Director, Water Resources; Richard Matteis, Administrator, Christian Scheuring, Managing Counsel; Kari Fisher, Associate Counsel

6. Name of person(s) who initiated the communication:

Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director, Division of Financial Assistance, State Water Board

7. Content of communication

State Water Board staff has reached out to stakeholders in the above matter to offer an opportunity to hear a presentation by staff on the content of the proposed order issued February 8, 2016, and to ask clarifying questions. This meeting took place as a result of the staff stakeholder outreach effort and was attended also by Board Member D'Adamo.

State Water Board staff's presentation was an overview of the revisions proposed to be made to the Eastern San Joaquin Agricultural General Waste Discharge Requirements by the proposed order. The presentation tracked the discussion in the proposed order.

Farm Bureau representatives asked a number of clarifying questions at the meeting. The questions generally focused on clarification regarding the interpretation and implementation of revisions proposed. Farm Bureau representatives additionally inquired about the purpose of the new reporting requirements that direct the coalition to submit certain data to the regional water board at the field level beginning in 2019 and in particular inquired whether the water board would be willing to state that the data would not be used for enforcement purposes. Farm Bureau representatives also inquired about whether State Water Board staff has considered the implications of the proposed order with regard to potential litigation against growers. Farm Bureau staff additionally asked if the State Water Board would consider a written request to postpone the workshop and extend the public comment period to allow for additional time for the regulated community to review the order and prepare comments.

8. Copies of handouts, PowerPoint presentations and other materials used or distributed at the meeting:

There were no written materials distributed at the meeting.